

DRAFT
CONCEPT PAPER
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
Water Quality Implementation
March 12, 1998

CALFED Implementation Strategy and Implementation Plan

CALFED is developing an integrated implementation strategy that describes the overall structure and process by which the CALFED program will be implemented. This strategy identifies the roles, responsibilities, and reporting relationships of the CALFED agencies, other agencies, environmental, agricultural, urban, and recreational interest groups, and the public who will be involved in the implementation of the program. For each program element including water quality, goals, objectives and targets will be defined and resource conflicts associated with implementation will be identified. The stakeholder involvement process to be employed through the entire implementation phase of the program will also be described.

The strategy will describe in broad terms the process whereby the water quality program will be carried from the programmatic level of detail to ultimate decisions on investments to be made and how adaptive management will be implemented to verify the quality of investments and to continually improve the implementation process. Included in the strategy will be a description of the approach to be employed for adaptive management, describing how monitoring, research and assessment will be focused on program evaluation and improvement, and how hypothesis formulation and testing might be undertaken. A schematic of the generalized implementation process, entitled *Annual Implementation Cycle* is attached. The Implementation Strategy must be completed by the time of certification of the Programmatic EIS/EIR later this year.

A detailed Implementation Plan will be developed early in the implementation phase of the program. This plan will describe specific actions to be taken, consistent with the Implementation Strategy, that will lead from programmatic actions to investment decisions, project implementation, and adaptive management.

Water Quality Element

The Water Quality Program Plan, appearing as an appendix to the CALFED Programmatic EIS/EIR, identifies water quality parameters of concern, water quality problems that may be affecting the Bay-Delta estuary, and Programmatic actions to correct these problems. As is appropriate to a programmatic-level planning document, it lacks the detail necessary to determine exactly how water quality investments should ultimately be made, and how the quality of these investments is to be assured. The Water Quality Program implementation strategy forms the bridge between programmatic actions and specific commitments of resources to water quality actions. Although this implementation strategy will not determine the outcome of water

quality investments, it will identify the process whereby water quality investment decisions are to be made and commit CALFED to broad agency, stakeholder, and citizen involvement in the decision making. Project-specific details of water quality implementation will be developed and incorporated into the CALFED Implementation Plan in the early part of the implementation phase of the program.

Implementation Technical Group

We are currently in need of input to determine the structure and process to which CALFED should commit through its Implementation Strategy. Later we will be seeking input on developing the Implementation Plan. Accordingly, we are forming an Implementation Technical Group (ITG) to recommend water quality implementation policies, structures, functions, processes, and activities to the Water Quality Program Manager. It is envisioned that the ITG will stay in existence at least until a detailed water quality implementation plan is completed, but will probably continue advising on project implementation and adaptive management. We envision the ITG being composed of about 18 persons, as follows:

- Chair - Water Quality Program Manager (1)
- CALFED Co-Lead Agency Representatives
 - Environmental Protection Agency (1)
 - State/Regional Quality Control Boards (1)
 - U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (1)
 - Department of Water Resources (1)
 - U.S. Corps of Engineers (1)
- Other Agency Representatives
 - Department of Health Services (1)
 - Department of Food and Agriculture (1)
 - U.S. Geological Survey (1)
- Stakeholder Representatives
 - Environmental (2)
 - Urban (2)
 - Agricultural (2)
 - Dischargers (1)
 - Business (1)
 - Recreational (1)

It seems probable that the ITG will need to conduct specialized analyses and activities and it may, therefore, be necessary to create other subteams. It is anticipated that any such functions would be chaired by CALFED lead agency representatives, and would report to the ITG and, thus, to the Water Quality Program Manager.

Involvement of Water Quality Technical Group

The Water Quality Technical Group will continue to be the primary advisory body for developing the Water Quality element of the CALFED program. The membership of the ITG will be recruited from the WQTG, where possible. Stakeholder representatives on the ITG will

report to the WQTG at its regular meetings, and are charged with reflecting the perspectives of the WQTG in the deliberations of the ITG.

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Annual Implementation Cycle

